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Tuesday May 9, 2006

Money given for ag projects in Casey, Garrard counties

FRANKFORT - Gov. Ernie Fletcher announced checks Monday for Garrard and Casey county agriculture-related projects.

Garrard County Agricultural Development Council received \$417,481 for agricultural diversification efforts and Casey got \$125,000 for facilities at the Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center.

The Garrard County Farm Bureau will use the money in the following ways: \$25,850 to encourage agricultural diversification efforts; \$25,000 to support the genetic improvement program; \$92,950 for cattle handling facilities; \$97,650 for hay, straw and commodity storage; and \$90,825 for the farm livestock fencing improvement program.

The Garrard County Conservation District will use \$64,731 in support of the forage improvement and utilization program and \$20,475 for the shared-use equipment program.

Casey will get the \$125,000 in funding from a Community Economic Growth Grant from the Governor's Office for Local Development.

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The Casey County Fiscal Court requested funds to purchase and construct two open-sided buildings in the Central Kentucky Agriculture and Exposition Center, on a 160-acre tract located south of Liberty. Building 1 will be 33,000 square feet to be used as a preparation area for show animals. Building 2 will be 100,000 square feet to be used as an indoor arena. Lighting, bleachers and the appurtenances will be purchased.

To learn more about programs available, contact the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627.

."When complete, the center will be a tourism attraction, offering livestock shows, farm equipment expositions, farmers' market and vendor shows," said Sen. Vernie McGaha, R-Russell Springs.

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